



**State Board of Education Request for
Freeway School Accreditation**

Name of Requesting School:	Evansville Day School (Renewal)		
Board Date:	September 2, 2009	Grade Span:	9-12 Only*
Education Director:	Mr. Kendell Berry	Public or Private:	Private
Location Address:	3400 N. Green River Road	Enrollment:	325
City/Town:	Evansville, IN 47715	Targeted Student Population:	College Prep Students

**Indiana Department of Education
Office of School Accreditation and Awards**

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

Summary of Materials Presented to the Board:

- 1. Identity** – “Evansville Day School is a junior pre-Kindergarten (pre-school for three-year-olds) through 12th grade independent college preparatory school in Evansville, Indiana. The School is seeking Freeway re-accreditation for the 9-12 programs only, and not for our JPK-grade 8 program. Freeway accreditation in our upper school will allow our students to compete in IHSAA sports. Since our lower grades take the ERB which compares their scores and results with national independent school norms, we do not see a need to take ISTEP testing in the lower grades. Day School is also accredited by ISACS - Independent School of the Central States - and undergoes an extensive and comprehensive evaluation process on a 7-year cycle. The mission of the school states that "Evansville Day School, in partnership with parents, offers a rigorous college preparatory program, which encourages students to strive for excellence in mind, body, and human spirit."
- 2. Attendance** – “Based on previous school history, it is Evansville Day School's goal to maintain an attendance rate of 95 percent and above. The Evansville Day School Student & Parent Handbook details specific policies on attendance. These policies are enforced. Attendance records for the 2008-09 school year indicate an attendance rate of .98; for the 2007-08 school year, records indicate an attendance rate of .98; and for the 2006-07 school year, the school reported an attendance rate of .97.”

* This petition covers only grades 9-12. Freeway accreditation for lower grades will expire.

3. **Graduation** – “Based on previous school history and tradition, it is Evansville Day School's goal to achieve an annual 100% graduation rate. This goal has been met successfully for many years, but only recently did we understand a reporting error which caused the State to believe our graduation rate was less than the actual rate. This error has been corrected and the State recognized our 100% graduation rate for 2008. For the past ten years, each and every Evansville Day School Student has met graduation requirements; and thus graduated from Evansville Day School.”
4. **Benchmarks** – “Middle School and Upper School students sit for the End of Course Assessments upon completion of Algebra I and English 10. Our goal is to exceed the minimal requirements. Students in 10th grade are strongly encouraged to sit for PSAT examinations. Our goal is to achieve mean scores higher than national and state averages. Students in 11th and 12th grades sit for SAT, SAT II subject tests, ACT, and AP examinations. Our goal is to surpass national and state SAT mean scores.”
5. **Staffing** – “The school's faculty includes 37 full-time teachers and 8 part-time teachers, of whom approximately half have been teaching at the school for ten years or more. The Upper School has 15 full-time and 2 part-time faculty members. While a current Indiana teaching license is not required, upper school faculty must have a degree in the field in which they teach, a passion of the subject, and a love of kids in order to be considered for employment. The school administers professional development funds, mostly concentrating on ISACS-related workshops, specific technology training, student assessment, creative teaching ideas.”

Waiver Requests:

- 511 IAC 6.1-5 Textbooks:
 “Frequently, Evansville Day School chooses textbooks from the selections adopted by the state. Due to the college-preparatory mission and its independent status, Evansville Day School occasionally selects textbooks not included in the state selections. An example of such practice may be the selection of complete literary works rather than an anthology. Textbooks selections are initially made by our department chairs in collaboration with the respective department's faculty. Subsequently, the Upper School Head must approve the textbook selections. The Head of School (i.e. Superintendent) may initiate a textbook review at any time.”
- 511 IAC 6.1-5-4: Curriculum:
 “Because Evansville Day School is a college-preparatory school, Evansville Day School does not offer courses pertaining to areas such as vocational or home economics education. In its recent extensive curriculum review during the 2007-2009 school years, Evansville Day School developed a standards-based curriculum. The faculty perused numerous types of standards, including those offered by the Indiana Department of Education. Through a departmentalized approach, faculty eventually adopted a set of Evansville Day School standards, all of which were gathered from various educational alliances such as U.S. states' departments of education, other nations' departments of education, or specific professional teacher organizations such as the American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language. Many elements of the General Curriculum requirements and those specific to high schools are being met by the EDS curriculum. The School's broad curriculum allows students to meet Core-40 requirements as well as opportunities for earning a honors diploma. Bridge and dual-enrollment classes and opportunities are also provided. The school will accept as elective credit any pre-

approved higher education course as long as the course is not offered at EDS. Evansville Day School endorses strongly the flexibility and privileges afforded by the Freeway Schools accreditation program as it permits schools to make appropriate modifications to meet the school's specific mission."

Issues:

- Teacher Licensing

Recommendations: Five Year Freeway Accreditation

Rationale: The Freeway school legislation does not require that all Freeway school teachers be licensed, but the state board has included staff qualifications as a consideration in contract discussions. Staff licensing for this school is similar to what exists in other Freeway school contracts.

After a site visit, discussions with administrators and a review of the petition, we recommend full five-year accreditation.